

# DEMOCRATIC VISIONS

## What is *Democratic Visions*?

*Democratic Visions: From Civil War to Civil Rights* is a three-year professional-development program for American history teachers. Funded by a grant to Powell County Schools by the U. S. Department of Education's Teaching American History initiative, *Democratic Visions* is a unique partnership between local school districts, the Kentucky Historical Society, professors at the University of Kentucky and Berea College, and the Kentucky Heritage Council. By pooling the resources and expertise of these organizations to deliver an innovative professional-development curriculum, *Democratic Visions* will raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of American history.

## Professional-Development Plan

	Theme	Visiting Scholar	Pedagogical Emphasis	Historical Thinking Skill	Fall/Spring Two-day Seminar Content	Winter Virtual Book Discussion	Summer Immersion Experience
Year One 2008-09	"This Mighty Scourge of War"	Dave Bowman, University of Kentucky	Using Historic Places and State and Local History	Perspective	Coming of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, Slavery  Natural Bridge State Park October 24-25	Edward Ayers, <i>In the Presence of Mine Enemies: The Civil War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863</i>	Kentucky Civil War bus trip  June 2009 TBA
Year Two 2009-10	"To Bind Up the Nation's Wounds"	Chad Berry, Berea College	Digital Stories	Narrative	Reconstruction, Women's Suffrage, Jim Crow, Industrialization	Altina Waller, <i>Feud: Hatfields, McCoys, and Social Change in Appalachia, 1860-1900</i>	Digital Story Workshop
Year Three 2010-11	"A New Birth of Freedom"	Gerald Smith, University of Kentucky	Incorporating On-line Archives into Teaching Unit	Agency	Postwar America, Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr.	Annelise Orleck, <i>Storming Caesar's Palace: How Black Mothers Fought their Own War on Poverty</i>	Civil Rights Tour of Memphis

## Follow Up Support

To assist with the translation of new content and teaching strategies into actual classroom practice, two master teachers will visit each participant in his/her classroom six times per year. These visits can take on a variety of forms—from modeling to planning to direct assistance—and provide a way for each participant's experience with the program to be customized to address individual needs.

## Technology Skills and Experiences

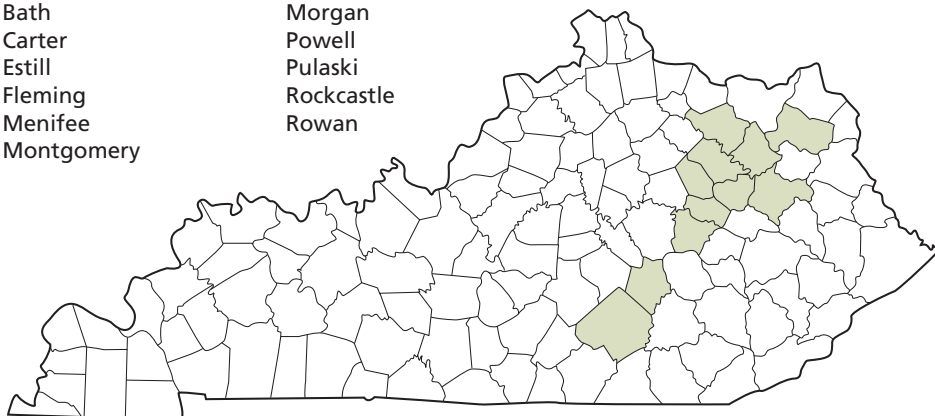
Technology is a focal point of *Democratic Visions*, both as a delivery method for some of the professional development sessions and as a pedagogical tool with students. After reading a significant work of historical scholarship related to the theme of the year and contributing to a virtual book discussion, teachers will get to interact with the author of the book in a videoconference later that year. Teachers will learn to use digital storytelling as a medium for authoring their own historical narratives in Year Two, using Moviemaker and iMovie software. Sessions on how to navigate online primary source repositories and build lessons around them will be emphasized in Year Three. Staff will work with teachers to master these skills for themselves as well as demonstrate how to integrate them into the classroom for use with students.

## Who Should Apply?

5th, 8th, and 11th grade American history teachers in the following districts able to commit to a three-year program

Bath  
Carter  
Estill  
Fleming  
Menifee  
Montgomery

Morgan  
Powell  
Pulaski  
Rockcastle  
Rowan



## Benefits to Teachers

Yearly stipend of \$1,000 (or three hours graduate credit) for full participation

Acquisition of new teaching techniques

Free books and teaching materials, travel expenses

Travel opportunities, including national conferences (NCHE, NCSS, OAH)

In-class assistance by master teachers

Networking with other teachers in the region and with other history professionals

## Benefits to Schools and Principals

High quality, no cost professional development

Substitute reimbursement when teachers are out of school

Follow-up support for participants by master teachers

Development of teacher-leaders in the area of American history

Application deadline: September 15, 2008

For the application, go to <http://www.history.ky.gov/sub.php?pageid=49&sectionid=11>

## CONTACT

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KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL  
State Historic Preservation Office



The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet.